POST. No blame be to you, sir; for all was lost, But that the heavens fought[1]: The king himself Of his wings destitute [2], the army broken, And but the backs of Britons seen, all flying Through a strait lane ; the enemy full-hearted, Lolling the tongue with slaughtering, having work More plentiful than tools to do't, struck down Some mortally, some slightly touched, some falling Merely through fear; that the strait pass was damm'd
With dead men, hurt behind, and cowards living To die with lengthened shame.

LORD. Where was this lane ?

POST. Close by the battle, ditch'd, and walFd with turf[3];
Which gave advantage to an ancient soldier,— An honest one, I warrant; who deserv'd So long a breeding, as his white beard came to,

1 But that the heavens fought:] So, in Judges, v. 20 : ** They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera." STEEVENS.

2 —The king himself
Of HIS WINGS DESTITUTE,] " The Danes rushed forth with such violence upon ttieir adversaries, that first the right, and then after the left wing of the Scots, was constreined to retire and flee back.— HAIE beholding *the Tdng*$_y$ with the most part of the nobles, fighting with great valiancie in the middle ward, now *destitute of the wings,* &c." *Holinshed.* See the next note. MALONE.

[3] Close by the battle, &c.] The stopping of the Roman army
by three persons, is an allusion to the story of the Hays, as related
by Holinshed in his History of Scotland, p. 155: "There was
neere to the place of the battel, a long lane fensed on the sides
with ditches and walles made of turfe, through the which the Scots
which fted were beaten downe by the enemies on heapes.
" Here Haie with his sonnes supposing they might best staie the flight, placed themselves overthwart the lane,- beat them backe whom they meet fleeing, and spared neither friend nor fo; but downe they went all such as came within their reach, wherewith divers hardie personages cried unto their fellowes to returne backe unto the battell," &c.
It appears from Peck's New Memoirs, *Sac.* Article 88, that Milton intended to have written a play on this subject.
MUSGKAVE.